GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2777
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2008
FUNCTIONING OF PUBLIC HEALTH SYSTEM
Borkataky Shri Narayan Chandra;Kurup Adv. Suresh

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the functioning of public health system is affected due to non-availability of key health functionaries, especially doctors and nurses;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the States worst affected;as a result thereof;and

(c) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE(SMT. PANABAKA LAKSHMI)

(a) to (c): There is no shortage in the aggregate number of doctors and nurses in the country.As per information furnished by Medical Council of India at present there are 7,13,428 allopathic registered doctors in the country.Apart from this,there are 290 medical colleges with 33,482 annual intake capacity of MBBS students and students passing out from these medical colleges every year are also adding to the strength of doctors in the country.In addition,there are more than 6 lakhs practitioners of Indian Systems of Medicine and Homeopathy in the country.However,there is an imbalance in the availability of doctors in the rural and urban areas of the country.As regard nurses,the total number of registered nurses with various state nursing Councils is 9.28 lakhs. Currently,there are 1597 Graduate Nursing Midwifery (GNM) Schools functioning in the country with an intake capacity of 80000 students (approximately) per year.In order to expand the facilities of Medical Education and health related services, under Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY) the Government has decided to set up six AIIMS like institutions in under served states and also to upgrade 13 existing Government Medical College/Institutions in ten States.Further, the Government encourages setting up of new college in the Government as well as private sector and also increase in intake capacity of medical students. The Government has approved the amendment to the Medical Council of India regulations to allow utilization of district hospital as teaching hospital by the promoter of private medical colleges under public private partnership model in the underserved areas in the country and National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) focused States.

Under NRHM, all PHCs are envisaged to be strengthened by upgrading single doctor PHC to 2 doctors PHC by posting of AYUSH practitioners and skilled nurses at PHC level. The States are encouraged to appoint doctors, specialists and paramedics on contractual basis. Multi-skill training of doctors and in-service training of ANMs/Nurses is being done. The States have been requested to strengthen their nursing cadre. Requirement of funds for establishment/strengthening of nursing and Auxiliary Nurse Midwife (ANM) schools, as incorporated in the Programme Implementation Plan (PIP) of some States under NRHM (2006-07) has been approved.

Strategic frame work has been prepared to meet shortage of nurses in future in the following manner:-

(i) Establishing Auxiliary Nurse Midwifery (ANM) and General Nursing and Midwifery (GNM) schools in those districts (230) which are not having both these training programmes.

(ii) Establishing post graduation Nursing (M.Sc.(Nursing)) Institutions.

(iii) Developing Cadre of nurse midwifery practitioners and establishing training institutions.